

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as indicated on the following page.

~~Recycling of ionic liquids in extractive distillation~~

Abstract

Process for working up a bottom stream ~~comprising~~ wherein high boilers and ionic liquid from an extractive rectification in which the ionic liquid is used as entrainer, ~~which comprises~~ . The process includes feeding the bottom stream to an evaporation stage which is operated at a pressure of less than 500 mbar or to a stripper which is operated ~~by means~~ through use of inert gas or steam, and the major part of the high boiler present is separated off in vapor form from the ionic liquid.